



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: DOC 3.5.3	Subject: MENTAL HEALTH CASES IN LOCKED UNIT STATUS
Chapter 3: FACILITY/PROGRAM OPERATIONS	Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Special Management	Revision Date:
Signature: /s/ by Director Day 9/10/97	Effective Date: Jan. 1, 1998

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Department of Corrections to provide separate and specialized treatment, program services, placements and/or housing for offenders who display, or who have been diagnosed as having, severe mental health problems.

II. AUTHORITY:

53-1-203, MCA. Powers & Duties of the Department of Corrections

National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Prisons and Juvenile Health Standards

III. DEFINITIONS:

Severe Mental Health Problem means any organic, mental or emotional impairment which has a substantial adverse effect on an offender's cognitive or volitional function.

IV. PROCEDURES:

A. Local facility program policy, approved by the Department statewide medical task force, will establish how services will be provided to offenders who have been diagnosed as having severe mental health problems. Each facility will develop specific instructions for staff to guide them in evaluating offenders who may display severe mental health behavior.

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- B. Offenders in locked status for administrative or disciplinary reasons, who subsequently develop mental health problems, will be seen by mental health staff on regular rounds or upon referral by a staff member. When an offender is diagnosed as having a severe mental health problem, the offender will be placed in a secure housing area or status identified specifically for medical or mental health purposes.

- C. Upon authorization of the health care professional in charge and with the concurrence of the facility administrator, an offender who displays dangerous behavior as a symptom of severe mental illness and cannot be sufficiently controlled in available medical housing may be temporarily housed in a locked unit pending immediate referral and removal at the earliest possible date to an appropriate placement and/or status. The offender will be kept in an area that affords direct staff supervision, not less than every 15 minutes.

- D. While in a locked housing unit, an offender will be afforded the same access to recreation, showers, and other activities as any other offender in that status; however, staff may order restrictions on property, recreation, showers, and other activities if the offender presents a danger to self or others.

V. CLOSING:

Questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the mental health professional in charge.